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English professor teaches abroad

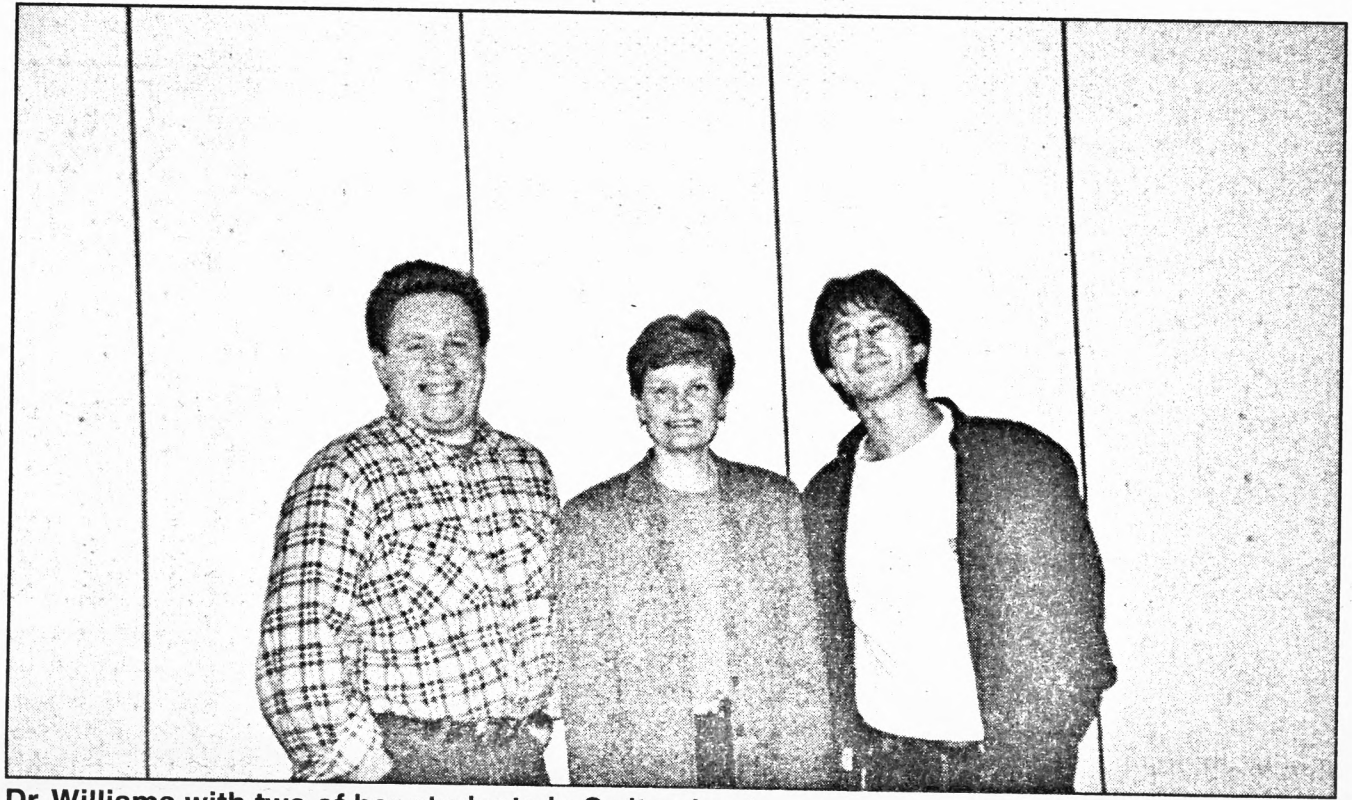
By Krista French
News writer

"Enlarged my vision both spiritually and geographically. I became aware of God's influence world wide". This was Dr. Williams's moving words as she described the events that lead her to Busingen, Switzerland this fall.

Last June 2001, she met Corlis McGee, rector of ENC who invited her to spend her sabbatical teaching English as a second language. The challenge put before her was to teach students from different countries. This was not an easy decision for Dr. Williams because she would have to leave her family behind but, "I felt the Lord direct me to do this to enlarge my world vision and service to Christ". Dr. Williams left on August 29, 2001 for Busingen, Switzerland to serve as a volunteer missionary for the semester.

On August 30, 2001 she arrived in Busingen, Switzerland. "Currently, there are only 35 students at European Nazarene College, but each dedicated to full time service". Some were required to take a course in English so they could have a better chance at a career in English. According to Dr. Williams, she only had 10 students, each of them unique from all walks of life.

There were a variety of countries represented such as Germany, Holland, Russia, France, and



Dr. Williams with two of her students in Switzerland.
(Submitted photo)

China and two students from Mid-America Nazarene College. There were two classes that she taught, both English. In addition to that she tutored students Nickaiy from the Ukraine, and Gyula from Hungary.

While there she tutored Nickolay and Gyula to help them pass the TOEFL exam. If they had not passed, they could not have complete their degree program. Both men plan to return to their countries to serve as

pastors in the Church of the Nazarene. "It was a wonderful thing to see these two men reach their goal," Dr. Williams said.

Because of the size of the school, Dr. Williams became well acquainted with all her students. Each day they would have meals together, Bible study, or time to fellowship. Dr. Williams in her free time also played in a hand bell and school choir and attended church

groups. She was also able during their fall break our Thanksgiving break to do some sight seeing with her husband who came to visit.

When asked Dr. Williams agreed, "I would gladly go and teach at European Nazarene College again, because it truly made me aware of God's influence world wide".

Committee formed to discuss changes in General Education requirements

By Laura Herbert
News writer

As a new semester starts, students often look through their schedules deciding what classes they plan on attending regularly, based solely on the class number. The general education 101 courses most often get put to the side in favor of "important classes." However, the general education courses are vital to this school and its mission. Olivet lists certain skills that an educated person should master on pages 18-22 of the 2000-2002 catalog. These skills are what form the basis of the general education courses at Olivet, classifying our school as a liberal arts university. Reviewing these courses

and making sure that they have relevance, effectiveness, and applicability is a committee headed by Dr. LaVerne Jordan.

This committee, whose other members include Dr. Rebecca Belcher, Dr. Jeff Bell, Dr. Randy Johnson, Dr. Craig Keen, and Dr. David VanHeemst, have been assigned to review the current general education curriculum to see if it is meeting the needs of people. According to Dr. Jordan, they are committed to listening to what students have to say (but being aware of a bigger picture), discovering what is needed in the real world, setting a pattern for lifelong learning, and preparing students to be Christians in every area of their lives.

Many steps must take place

between the organizational meeting of January 17th and the finalized curriculum, and these steps will take the committee approximately 2 years before implementation.

In the current semester, the committee will begin by analyzing other schools' programs and talking to faculty, alumni, and students to get a general picture of what they perceive their needs to be. Dr. Jordan said that they will begin by talking to graduating seniors so that their voices can make a difference before they move from the Olivet community. She is hoping that open forums can be established so that students will get to share their feelings about the curriculum and also that alumni will be able to give

a great deal of feedback on how the courses met their needs in the real world.

However, the idea most important to Dr. Jordan is the openness of their decisions. She declared that their decisions would not take place behind closed doors. The general education courses at Olivet may generate distaste among some students, but they are foundational to the mission of the university. It is a liberal arts university that, according to Dr. Jordan, strives to give Christians a "broad foundational awareness of the world and how to interact in it." In order to keep the curriculum fresh and our mission alive, the courses may change, but the concept will not.

TV department grows, makes changes

By Scott Roberts
News editor

The television department at Olivet is making changes, both in requirements for TV majors and general interest. Growth and opportunities have been the result and Professor Mark Bishop, head of the TV department, hopes it continues. "We have to learn to walk before we can run, but I'm hoping we'll be at a brisk jog in a couple of years," he said.

Walking was even hard for the TV department for a while. Last year, students taking TV courses had to travel to the Simmons Communication station on route 102 past the state park. In a fifty minute class, "the students only had twenty to thirty minutes of work time," said Bishop.

This year, however, Simmons Comm. went out of business and donated their equipment to Olivet, everything was brought to campus and put in the old distance learning classroom was in the basement of Benner Library. "That really helps," said Bishop. Also, this year the communication department was able to hire Mark Bishop to run the TV department, and the department has taken off. There were seven in the TV program last year compared to 18 this year, more than a 100% increase.

Now the department is looking to expand and have regular cable shows. Among those shows will be a sports show called Tiger Sports Extra hosted by Mike Meier and

Mindy Boehme. This show will interview different athletes and give a recap of the day in sports. Prof. Bishop has also mentioned a type of game show, maybe even one similar to the Dating Game, but that is still in the works, along with a campus news show similar to Dateline. The goal is to one day even go on a local cable channel like channel 49.

Besides campus productions, the TV department is doing commercials for local businesses. These businesses are Heavenly Ham, Busse and Reick, Briar Patch, PJ's Ice Cream, and Victoria's House. If the companies like the commercials, they will use them on the air.

Because of all this involvement, Prof. Bishop has changed some of the curriculum required for the major. One of the more notable changes is a required practicum where a student will write, shoot, and edit their own video project worth 1-6 hours. Others include adding a Television News course and a Directing course as well as changing course names for added flexibility.

Dr. Jay Martinson, chair of the department of communication, is very supportive of the TV department. "The television program has always been a dream of mine," he said. "I see a lot of growth and energy, and I think soon it will be our fastest growing major."

New addition not just for Chicago Bears

By Scott Roberts
News editor

The Gibson-Ide Varsity Center is about to get a new addition. A new locker room/sports medicine center will be completed near the end of March, hopefully in time for use by the women's softball team according to Gary Griffin, director of University Relations.

The building will cost about \$600,000 when it is completed and will house women's softball, soccer, and tennis. It will also offer a laundry room with three washers and five dryers and an expanded training room. According to Griffin, this new facility will help the University get accreditation for the sports medicine program.

Griffin also said, "The improvements on campus are mainly for the students, not for the Bears." He went on to say students would be able to enjoy these facilities eleven months out of the year. He also wanted students to know that "no money of student's tuition is going for the Bears. The money for this is being raised outside

of Olivet in the community."

The Bears will bring much publicity to Olivet, especially since their 13-3 season. WGN will report from training camp and they are a national superstation which means Olivet will be known all over the nation. Because of this, Olivet continues to prepare for "the onslaught of fans" Gary Griffin said, from Olivet's standpoint, the goal of training camp is "to let people know what Olivet has to offer." With the Bears coming, more people will know then ever before.

The building has been under construction for some time now and looks to be a state of the art building. It will house the bears and our athletic teams well and be a great asset to our university.

The students will appreciate the new center and all it has to offer. The washers are being taken out of the Gibson-Ide, so the new washers in the addition will be appreciated.

Associated Student Council update: 2001-2002 accomplishments

Submitted by Jeff Forgrave
A. S. C. President

Tiger Rage (in the Cage) - a new student "pep club" that has had significant university and community support (especially monetary).

***Open House Hours** - worked with Student Development on establishing new/additional times for co-ed visitation in apartment housing.

***Sack Lunches** available in Common Grounds (our coffee shop) & Red Room (our grill) - this allows students on the go to pick up a sack lunch and have it deducted from their meal plan.

***Issues with Campus Security & Sodexo** (our food service) - We (student government) worked with each of these organizations, the students involved, and Student Development on coming up with solutions.

Staff Christmas Cards - we sent Christmas/Thank-you cards to the majority of staff members (Buildings & Grounds, Marriott, Security, etc.) expressing our thanks to them for the work they do.

A. C. M. E. Projects - raised over 2,200 cans from members of the

community for the Salvation Army, sponsored 4 Salvation Army bells for an entire day, raised over \$700 for a Nazarene Pastor's family we're sponsoring in Africa.

Other Accomplishments/Endeavors - Above are just a few of the things we've worked on this semester. Several others include: All-Campus Prayer Breakfast, raised funds along with Social Work Club for the World Trade Center Relief fund, sponsorship of parties, general representation, overseeing clubs and student organizations, and first and foremost seeking and modeling Christ in all we do.

We work in conjunction with Student Development on a number of things, but they (especially Dean Webb!) were extremely key in those denoted with *. It's amazing how much can be accomplished in a spirit of cooperation. Thanks Dean Webb!

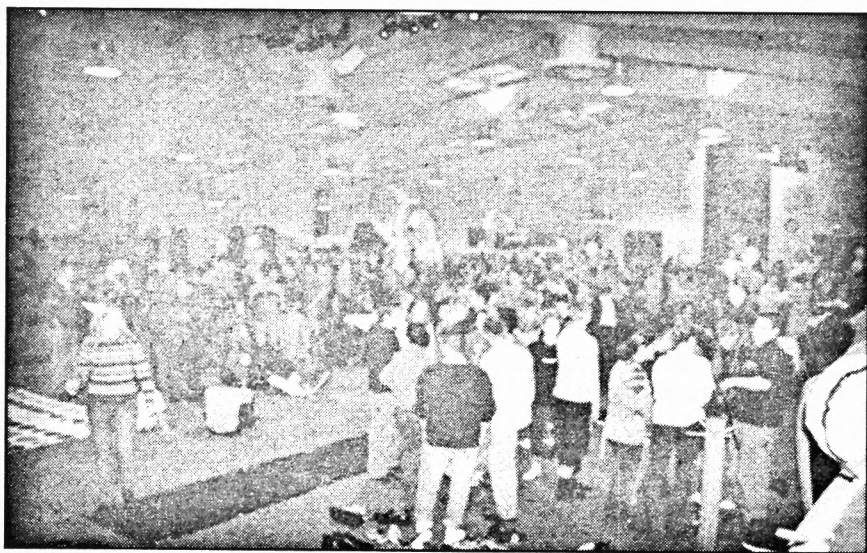
Interested in helping out or have an idea? -- give Jan (ext. 5093) or Jeff (ext. 5339) a call.

Also, think about getting involved in A. S. C.! Elections are coming up in just over a month!

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Chalfant Hall became an amusement park during the celebration. (Submitted photo)



Praize sings during the celebration as Dr. and Mrs. Bowling look on. (Submitted photo)

Concert Band plans annual variety show: "Full Spectrum"

By Erin Rumbley
Executive editor

Olivet's Concert Band, under the directed of Don Reddick, is once again in the middle of planning their annual variety show, called "Full Spectrum," and offering, "A full spectrum of musical entertainment." This year's format is going to be similar to last year's show, involving choreographed full band and small ensemble numbers, as well as interesting nontraditional performances.

Last year's show was the first time this type of program was used by the band, and it was very successful. This year's show should be no different. Band members are planning to bring even more variety to this year's "Full Spectrum," including the addition of emcees and a few non-instrumental numbers.

The show will feature songs from different time eras and diverse styles of music, offering an interesting variety of sound and entertainment.

This is the Concert Band's 80th anniversary year, and the variety show

is one of many events this year that will help celebrate that anniversary. The goal for "Full Spectrum" is to fill the auditorium with a sold-out crowd every night.

The band members enjoy putting together this show and thinking of creative things to do. Many of them also enjoy playing the variety show music because it is different and more entertaining.

"I really like the chance to play some popular music and have fun playing something besides our concert pieces and sacred tour music," Kara Krestel, the sophomore tenor saxophone player said. "It reminds me of highschool marching band."

The variety show will be held in Kresge Auditorium in Larson Fine Arts Center on Feb. 1 and 2, 2002, at 7 and 9 pm each night. Tickets are \$2 each and will be on sale in Ludwig during meal times the week before the show, or at the door.

Dr. Bowling celebrates ten years at Olivet

By Scott Roberts
News editor

Since 1992, Dr. John Bowling has led Olivet through good times. Enrollment has been up every year since he came. There have also been many cosmetic changes on campus, like a new entrance, the admissions center, and most notably, the Weber Center. The Guest house has been improved along with the Harlow Hopkins Alumni Center, which used to be the president's home.

Dr. Bowling also has worked to provide student scholarships. He has worked to refurbish dorms and to provide a better living environment on campus. Dr. Bowling has provided a more accessible leadership so students can feel free to talk to him.

On January 8, Olivet students thanked him for everything he has done by giving him a tenth anniversary party in Chalfant Hall. It lasted from 8-11 pm and included many games and activities. Among the games were Twister, inflatable games, and human foosball, which Dr. Bowling actually played. There was also an obstacle course and laser tag.

Music was provided through-

out the night by Praize. There was also a program in the middle where Cassie Martin and Jeff Forgrave, A.S.C. president, presented Dr. Bowling with two gifts. The first was a gift certificate to Nine, one of the Bowlings' favorite restaurants in Chicago. The other gift was a card shower from students who wrote and thanked Dr. Bowling for his ten years of dedicated service.

It was estimated by Dean Woody Webb that 800-900 students attended throughout the night. "We had a good time," Martin said. "It was fun."

Dr. Bowling himself was "very suprised" at the party. "I really enjoyed it," he said. "There was a good energy level and it was very creative." He also said the party was a rewarding experience and he felt thankful and honored to be at Olivet.

When asked what his greatest achievement in his ten years at Olivet was, Dr. Bowling said, "I think now we have a clear sense of unity and mission for the University." He said that out of that comes all the buildings and improvements, but the mission statement is where it all starts.

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An interview with FFH: *Far From Home*

By Ryan Cummings
Features writer

Plan on Chalfant Hall being packed this weekend. The Christian recording group FFH, will bring their talent and love of music to Olivet as they worship along with fans at their Friday evening concert. In a recent phone interview, I spoke with guitarist and vocalist Michael Boggs. Here are a few things we talked about:

Ryan: When and how did you guys decide to form a group?

Michael: Well actually Brian and Jeromy started the group in Pennsylvania when they were both 16. Back then, they were two of the four guys that were in the group. Brian played the trumpet and Jeromy played the drums. They were an a capella group and as time went on, one member left and that's when Jennifer joined the group. Then in 1998, I joined the group when the other guy left.

Do you guys all get along?

Well ya know, Jeromy and Jennifer have been married since 1995. And Brian's wife Allyson runs the sound for our band. Our drummer Jason Trimble, is my roommate and Jeromy's cousin. So as a tight-knit group, we all get along like a family.

What do you do to make sure you continue to grow as a Christian and stay in God's will?

Well actually, this needs to be more on a personal level than as a group level. You need to be right with God as an individual first and then the group works along together to achieve unity.

If each of us don't do what we need to, then the group couldn't function as a group on and off stage. But to stay in God's will, I think it's important to read your bible and pray. Pray that you follow God's will in your life and read to know what that plan is. Devotions also play a major role in how we grow. We learn from devotions as well as from each other.



FFH (clockwise from left-Jennifer, Brian, Michael, and Jeromy)

(Photo courtesy of Nicole Carpenter and TBA Entertainment)

Ok, following up on that question, how do you guys prepare yourself spiritually, mentally and physically for a concert?

Well again, we definitely pray before each concert and ask God to have His way in everything that happens there. Before each show, we will do a small devotion or quick Bible study and ask for prayer requests and pray about those. Sometimes our road pastor, or the pastor of the church that we are performing at, will also do a devotion and pray for us. Before we go on stage,

we have to be mentally and spiritually ready to worship.

Do you get nervous before a concert?

Yes, of course. I still get nervous every time. Well, not as nervous as the very first time going out on stage, but yeah, we all do. Sometimes before the concert we are all jumping around with butterflies and ready to just go out there and worship God. It's a nerve wrecking experience to start out, but as time goes along, we feel like a part of the crowd, just there to worship God.

What do you like the most about being a member of FFH?

The biggest part of being a member of this group is the opportunity to be in the ministry. There is no other job out there that gives you the same feeling inside. Just being able to see people getting saved is an awesome experience. It is such a blessing to see lost people come to Jesus. God has called us to reach others, and that's what we are trying to do.

Is traveling hard on your family life?

Ryan, that is the toughest part of the ministry. What is normal to most families isn't normal to us. We don't get to work the 9-5 job and come home at night and have dinner with our family. But as a group and family, FFH is my family on the road. We get to have some major holidays to go home such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, but most of the time we are out traveling. So, yeah it's hard on us to not see our families as much as we would like to.

What wacky talents or hidden gifts do each of the members have?

Well Jen can do impressions of people and animals really well. She is going to kill me for this, but she was also a Rodeo Queen in Missouri. Now Brian, could be a music teacher if he wanted to. He was a trumpet major in college, and the only one to go onto grad school and receive a degree. Jeromy, well he is good at anything, and he's an awesome drummer. And I love to play football and baseball and almost went to play for college.

Do you have any message that you would like to give the fans of FFH?

Stick close to God. Concentrate on what he wants in your life and work towards His will. And take one day at a time.

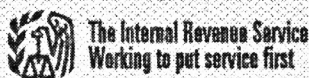
Ok, my trademark question now. What is everyone's favorite cereal?

(laughing) Well, I like Cocoa Puffs, Brian likes Count Dracula, and I'm not sure about Jeromy and Jennifer. I know that they are health nuts, and sometimes see Jeromy eating mini shredded wheats but not for sure on their fave.

As FFH continues to grow and worship, their fans will continue to support them. They pray that they stay in the center of God's will and be obedient to His calling. From recording songs for Coca-Cola campaigns to having their CD taken on the Space Shuttle Endeavor mission, this group will remain as one of the top Christian recording groups in the country. Their mission is to "reach as many people for Jesus as quickly as possible."

THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE 21ST. IT'S CALLED IRS *e-file* for Business.

In the 21st century you run your entire business electronically. So why not file your business taxes the same way? Now business taxpayers and tax preparers can file by phone, by Internet or by PC software. It's more economical with less paperwork. It's more efficient with increased accuracy. And it's more effective since you'll spend less time filing tax returns and more time focused on your business. If you're a business taxpayer, ask your tax preparer about e-filing. If you're a tax professional, ask your software developer about enabling your programs to take advantage of electronic filing. And to find out more about what life looks like on this side of the line, visit www.irs.gov. File Smart. File Electronic.



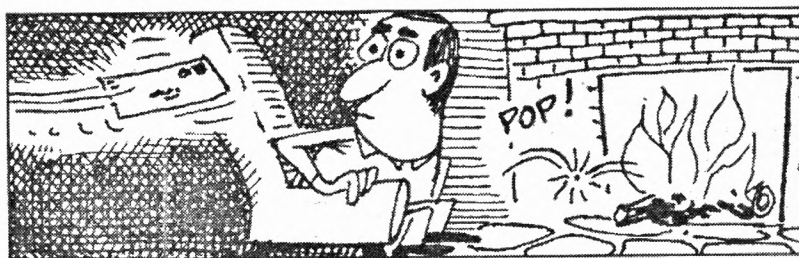
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The name of the prophet Malachi comes from the Hebrew words for my messenger.



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It was believed by some in the southern United States that if the fire pops on the hearth, a letter is headed your way.

fresh faces... Beth Olney

Amanda Beck
Features writer

You hear it every semester. "You know, the person you sit next to in chapel could be the person you marry." Usually, you ignore it, or you shift uncomfortably in your seat, or, as I do, you laugh because you are between members of the same gender. For one fresh face at Olivet, however, these words ring true. In many ways, chapel brought Beth Olney to the Chaplain's office.

It was in chapel at Asbury College (Wilmore, KY) that Beth Olney met a young man by the name of Kent, and it was in chapel that the two got to know one another, eventually fell in love and got married. Beth and Kent, who have been married for 25 years, came to Illinois from Oregon in 1995.

Earlier this year, Kent, better known to Olivet's student body as Dr. Olney, professor of Sociology, told Beth about an opening for secretary in the chaplain's office, and she knew it would be a good job for her. "I was

wanting a job that was more on the same schedule as my family. This seemed to fit."

So what exactly does the chaplain's secretary do? Her job not only encompasses working for and with Bill Bray and Bill Bahr, but also is a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Beth oversees chapel checkers, attendance, chapel set-up, prepares all the powerpoints used in chapel, and so on. As Beth puts it, "If it has to do with chapel, I'm your person."

In her free time, Beth likes baking, sewing, and in warmer weather, yard work. Her family is also very important to her: "We enjoy being together, traveling, having friends over, and we especially enjoy the college students."

Although she feels there is still much to learn about her new job, one of Beth's favorite aspects of it is the contact with students, and it is with the students that she feels there is a "two-way street."

On the one hand, she is able to impact the lives of the students. Beth feels that is one of the reasons God has her at Olivet, and it is a feeling she has

known for several years: "I think He brought our family to this community to make a difference in the lives of young people. I sensed that from the very moment that Dr. Nielson called Kent back in 1994 to invite him here for an interview. "Kent and I met at college, so we know the importance of decisions made during these years and like to be able to influence others who are in this stage of life."

Some of Beth's favorites

Favorite Singer: George Wolff

Favorite Book: How Now Shall We Live? by Chuck Colson

Favorite Holiday: Whichever holiday we're celebrating. Christmas and Easter are the best.

On the other hand, we the students are able to influence the lives of the Olney family, including their two sons, Kyle, 17, and Luke, 14. "We take our boys to as many events as we can, from plays and concerts to sporting events. Seeing college

students involved in such activities allows our boys to dream of what they might do with their own lives."

In a way, her sons influenced her decision to apply for the job. "I had been involved in some form of children's ministry since my oldest son was two-and loved every minute of it. But with 2 teenagers now, I felt like I needed to shift my focus to older students." Her job, as well as her husband's, allows her to be with students every day, and she sees this experience as a positive one for the whole family.

We are reminded every semester that the person we sit next to in chapel could be "the one." For Beth Olney, it was, and it is part of the reason she is at Olivet today. So what does the chaplain's secretary think of chapel? "I love being able to attend chapel every week. We don't realize how blessed we are to have that opportunity." You can ignore it, or shift uncomfortably in your seat, or even laugh, but she is right. And likewise, Olivet is blessed to have her as a new addition to campus life.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The man behind the holiday

Erin Laning
Features editor

Most people have heard of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Most people have enjoyed a day off of school or work in honor of him. But how many people actually know who this man really was? How many people know what he did to deserve a day named after him?

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929. He was ordained as a Baptist minister at the age of eighteen. King was a very smart man. He entered Morehouse College when he was fifteen. His education continued at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and Boston University, where he earned a doctoral degree in systematic theology. He first served at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not a stranger to segregation. He attended local segregated public schools as a child. In Montgomery, many white bus drivers treated the black riders rudely by swearing at them and harassing them. The city's segregation laws forced black riders to give up their seats to white riders when the buses got crowded. King was chosen to be president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization that directed a bus boycott in Montgomery.

Dr. King soon became a national figure. He held strong ties to the lead-

ing white Protestant preachers of the North. These relationships helped him become successful in influencing public opinion on the issue of segregation.

In 1959, King traveled to India to study Ghandi's approach to nonviolent persuasion. King then led many protest campaigns in the early 1960's. During a demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama, King was arrested and sent to jail. It was during his imprisonment that Dr. King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which argued that individuals have a moral right to disobey unjust laws. The letter was read nationwide and helped promote Dr. King's role as a moral leader. These protests resulted in many Americans supporting national legislation against segregation.

It was on August 28, 1963, that Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. The speech and march helped bring about the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited segregation in public places.

The horrific 1965 voting rights protest march from Selma to Montgomery and the following rally created support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This eliminated the use of qualification tests that were usually used to prevent black people from voting.

By the mid-1960's King's non-violent leadership was being questioned by younger blacks. King shifted his focus to fighting for civil rights based on economic issues. In 1967 he

began planning his Poor People's Campaign, which would pressure lawmakers to address economic injustice.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered by a sniper in Memphis. He had been there to support a group of striking black garbage workers. In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to murdering Dr. King. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Today, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered as a Nobel Prize winner and a principal leader in the American Civil Rights movement. A national holiday in honor of Dr. King was declared by Congress in 1983. It is observed on the third Monday of January, which is usually on or around Dr. King's birthday.

Editor's Note: All of the information for this article is from the

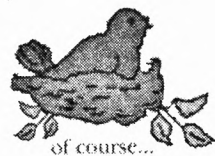
Encarta website. To learn more about Dr. King, visit the site at <http://encarta.msn.com>

Black History Month

Candace Hatchett
Features writer

All students are encouraged to attend and participate in the celebration of Black History Month. The theme "Where Do We Go From Here?" will be discussed and addressed in a variety of events throughout the campus. Events include a Movie Night in Wisner Auditorium on February 8, poetry readings in the Common Grounds coffee shop on February 20, and an all campus talent show on February 26. In celebration of the appetite, the Marriott-Sodhexo food service will prepare a dinner of authentic soul food as well. Look for more details and displays in Benner Library, Ludwig Center, and the Common Grounds coffee shop. All events are sponsored by the Multi-ethnic Relations Advisory Committee.

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Am I Spending my Time Wisely?

By Jeremy Brewer
Spiritual Life writer

A new year has come upon us once again, bringing with it a new semester. By now we all find ourselves quickly overwhelmed with the demands of school and life again, and we are probably wondering, I thought this year was going to be better. I know I myself resolved to live a much more balanced life this year, devoting less time to studies (which consumed me last semester) and giving more time to enjoying this life that is really much shorter than we want to dwell on. Still I personally am finding myself studying even more than last semester and spending even less time enjoying the "gift of life". Even while typing this, my schoolbooks sit in front of me and it's really my theology quiz tomorrow that is at the forefront of my mind.

As there are about five ideas floating in my head of what to talk about, I decided to take the time to simply open up my heart and let you know where I am. I have no idea how many people read my article, and I haven't written in the last two papers. Naturally, it was my studies that kept me from doing this. Still I have some hope that there are those who read my article and I have faith that God has used me, at least in some small way, to encourage or minister to someone on this vast campus of diverse strangers that I don't really know. It is my hope that by being honest with you here, right now about where I am, will perhaps at least in some small way tear down this barrier of "not knowing" each other and perhaps allow you to think too on some of what I have thought about.

First, I am honestly beginning to wonder if the amount of time that I devote to studies is really the best stewardship of my time. Now mind you, grades are very important to me and I believe in working very hard at

all I do. Yet, I find myself lacking in so many other areas of my life so that studies are the only thing that seem to be thriving. At this point, many professors and even parents would say, "College is a time to study and a time to prepare. Everything else comes second." While there is definite validity to their emphasis on its important, I would have to disagree with our studies being first priority. (Now I am fully aware that I am treading into dangerous and controversial territory, but I cannot betray what I feel in my heart.) I feel with all my heart that our relationship with Christ is the first and foremost priority.

The length of our days is
seventy years—
Or eighty if we have the
strength;
Yet their span is but trouble and
sorrow,
For they quickly pass, and we fly
away.
Teach us to number our days
aright,
That we may gain a heart of
wisdom.
—Psalm 90: 10, 12

For me, no matter how many Bible classes I take, no matter how many theology lectures I struggle to comprehend, no matter how many Greek words I say incorrectly, they are not what I need to nurture that relationship with my Heavenly Father. I believe them to be necessary in preparing me for a greater ministry still to come, but if doing well in these

(getting a good grade) comes at the expense of my alone time with God, soaking myself in His perfect word, and conversing with Him in prayer, then the greater thing has been sacrificed. I must first be a child of God, then a student.

Second, and perhaps even more difficult to agree with than my first argument, is that I feel studies still should come second even after personal time. Again, I have found myself so immersed in studies that I don't remember the last time (during school anyway) that I spent more than a meal with my girlfriend. I don't know the last time that I spent a few hours hanging out with my friends and not having to leave extremely early to go study more than the hours I already had earlier in the day. The last time that I sat to play the piano or read a book for fun, well those are memories of a time over break. They certainly are not permitted during school time. What good does all of this knowledge do me if I go to my grave a genius but having never really lived? "Oh, but there will be time to live after school!" Well, according to the growing number of middle-aged adults who are constantly falling victim to burnout and depression, I would have to believe such a statement to be a pathetic attempt at avoiding issues of priorities. I will be honest here yet again. I am still torn over this issue. I know that I am not taking as much time to smell the flowers, as I should. There was a time in high school, even all the way through my freshman year, which I was associated with a continual smile and a carefree attitude, even during times of stress. I am afraid such traits have faded from my profile. If I am to be honest with myself, I know that suddenly my life has become books first and other things sec-

ond. Still, I know that doing my best is important, that how I do in school will play a huge factor in my job, further education, etc., blah blah blah. Still, I almost feel that I am working so hard at my grades, because my future depends on it so much, that I have almost taken the future of my life out of God's hands and placed it in my own.

Again, I don't feel that I have come to a conclusion on this subject. Perhaps I felt led to present simply so that you will be encouraged to evaluate your own priorities. All I know for myself is that I have missed too many opportunities to hold my girlfriend's hand, I have missed too many opportunities to play basket-ball with my little brother, too many times have I missed a wonderful encounter with the Lord during devotional time, because I was so worried over things that had to be done. I spend hours in my studies, and minutes talking with the people that God have called me to love and share in this journey of life with. School is good. Studying is important, but life is to be lived in the process, not put off for when you are ready. We are called to give our all too God, and leave that with everything we can't do, in God's hands. Perhaps giving my all, means giving the best of my life and not just certain aspects of it. I don't want to leave this article as if it is a bash on academia. The question of priorities and time spent is to be applied to all areas of our life. How are you spending your time? Are the things that you are devoting your time to going to leave an impact on eternity? Are they going to help you leave this world with peace and a smile? What is really important, I mean really, really important. Only God knows. Maybe you should go ask Him what He thinks.

Let me not live

By Eric Stuepfert
Spiritual Life writer

Let me not live. This would seem like a very odd prayer to pray. It is however, a prayer that a Christian must pray not only once, but continually. God points out that we were all children of wrath because of the sin that we lived in (Ephesians 2:3). Romans 3:23 also proclaims that "all have sinned." As Christians, we are made clean by and through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This however is not "it" or "the end." A Christian has never been free of temptation or desires after salvation, and this is where the prayer comes in, *let me not live.* Paul writes in Romans 6:11 that Christians should count themselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. We are not to live in sin, but rather to die to its power and influence in our lives. However, let me

go one step further. Recall when finals were taking place last semester. I know, I know, they made me cry too. Do you remember how studying took so much time away from everything else? You were probably stressed and didn't want to be bothered by anyone or anything else. All that you were concerned about was doing well on those finals. I wouldn't necessarily say that being concerned with doing well is a bad thing and definitely not a sin, but it could take over one's life. There is so much focus going into finals that there is not much room for any other focus at all.

Sometimes we get so busy and occupied with what we want or what is important to us (grades, new car, etc). This is where "*let me not live*" comes into play. This prayer asks for the strength to die to sin, but it also asks for so much more. It asks to take

"ourselves" out of "us." Those things that take our attention off God (finals) have to be killed too. Stay with me here, I'm not saying that everything should be blown off, but things should be prioritized. The question that all Christians must ask themselves is, "What does God want?" Are these random things that I want more important than what God wants? Are they taking up so much time and energy that they cover up God's will for my life? When one prays "*let me not live*" it does not mean that one wishes to be dead, but rather that one's own desires, wishes, and plans are dead so that God's desires, wishes, and plans are brought to the

front.

Getting a doctorate, raising a family, taking over that struggling church are all great things, but if they are not what God wants for your life, at that specific time or at all, what good are they? Sin is a terrible thing, but putting noble desires and wishes before God's could be as harmful. *Let me not live.*

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The Cornerstone Concert Connection

By Elizabeth Angell

Arts and Entertainment writer

For ONU students, The Cornerstone Church is the place to be this semester. The church started a new concert series on January 18 with a cozy coffeehouse-style setting. These events are focused on bringing teenagers and college students to a place where they can hang out in a safe and comfortable environment. Most Friday nights are open for students to relax at the Cornerstone Coffeehouse.

Filled with fun, games, and great music, Cornerstone has created an environment that is guaranteed to keep everyone entertained. Every other Friday evening there will be two local area bands that will be giving a small concert. Attendees can hang out with friends, meet new people, and even talk with the performing band members. The situation is a great opportunity to share Christ with those who may not always feel comfortable in a normal church setting. The mission statement of Cornerstone church is this:

"To glorify God by reaching people with the Gospel, and by producing a congregation of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ."

Take the opportunity to change a life and drop by the Cornerstone Coffeehouse. Spread the word and invite friends - saved or unsaved. Here is a glimpse of the upcoming concerts for this semester:

February 1

Autumn War
www.autumnwar.com

Autumn War is a modern rock band, based in the Chicago area since 1998.

Square Marbles

This is a local Bourbonnais band with a melodic punk rock sound.

February 15

Engaged
www.geocities.com/engaged_rock_music/

Engaged, from St. Louis, is a hard-core band.

Every Person's Dream
www.everypersonsdream.com

These guys, from the suburbs of Chicago, play with an indie emo sound and a rock background. According to lead singer Thad Williams, the mission of the band is "to spread the gospel without preaching at people."

March 1

CR33: Convicted Resistance
www.cr33.com

CR33 is a hardcore hip-hop band from Moline, Illinois. They express their uncompromising beliefs and passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Never Ending Daydream
www.neverendingdaydream.net

This is a band of Olivet students with a wide stylistic range, which stretches from rock to softer tastes.

March 15

Escape from Earth
www.efemusic.com

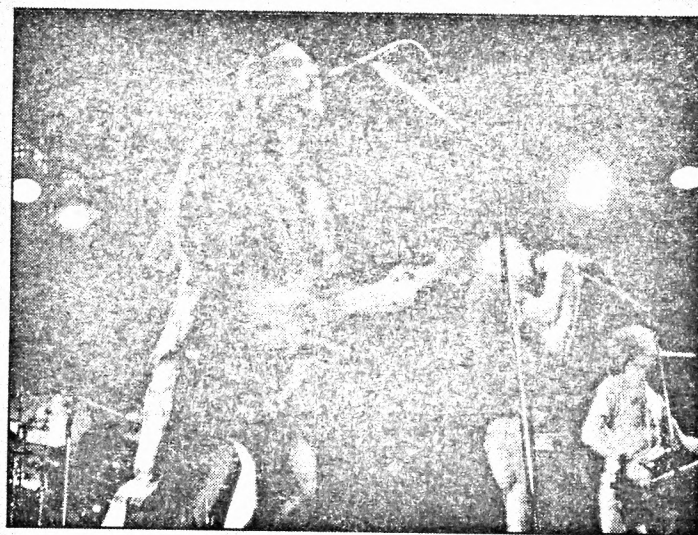
Escape from Earth comes from the Chicagoland area with a hard rock new-metal sound.

The Pechanios
<http://www.angelfire.com/punk/pechanios/index.html>

These guys are a punk rock band with a high-energy style. They also are from the Chicagoland region.

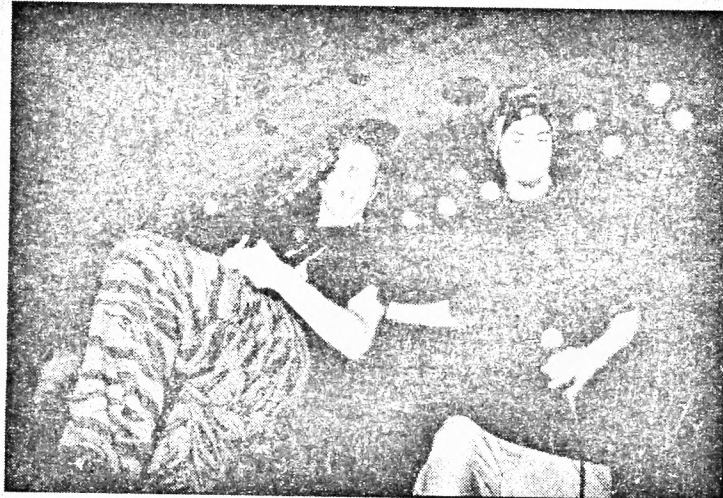
The Cornerstone Church is located west of Route 45, on Indian Oaks Road in Bourbonnais. The coffee shop opens at 7 pm and closes at 10 pm. The price is three dollars - much cheaper than a night at the movies. Come out and join your friends; watch videos on a giant screen; and share in games, food, and prizes. For more details and updates, visit The Cornerstone Church website at www.thecornerstone.org.

The Cornerstone Concert Series: A Look at the Bands



Autumn War

(Photo by Bruce O'Neal, courtesy of www.autumnwar.com)



Escape from Earth

(Photo by Alaina Mosley, courtesy of www.efemusic.com)



CR33

(Photo courtesy of www.cr33.com)

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By Cap'n Slappy

Study Break writer

Well, folks, here we are! A brand new semester, filled to the brim with the anxieties, challenges, and computer viruses in your e-mails! It's good to have you back, as I've been finding my inner voice quite annoying of late...Why doesn't he just leave me alone?! Don't forget, you can send YOUR questions to me at: slappycaptain@hotmail.com. Anyway, on with the letters this issue:

DEAR CAP'N SLAPPY,

I'm a freshman guy here at Olivet, and I need your help. I have many friends here on campus that seem to think that showering is a weekly ritual, rather than a frequent one. How do I know this? I can smell them a mile away, Cap'n Slappy! The stench is so bad, my girlfriend wants me to stop being their friend. How can I tell my friends that they need to bathe more regularly, without coming off too mean?

Thanks!

Holding Mynose

Dear Holding,

I have no trouble finding sympathy in your situation, as I remember not too far back my own bride-to-be had such a problem. We had been dating some four years, and I was about to pop the big question, when I realized that I might not want to live with her odor for the remaining of my days. Simply put, I kindly asked her to please bathe, or I would never consider marriage. Well, she told me

she DID bathe, and that what I was smelling was her perfume, and she DUMPED me. However, the waitress that was waiting our table took to my sad case and fell in love with me on the spot. We've been married now for over, um, what is it now? Oh yes, 200 years. Wait, that's not right, Uh-oh. Don't tell my wife!

As for your situation, Holding, my advice is to just tell them your problem with their odor. We all know someone with a problem like this one. If we would just all be honest, despite our fear of seeming mean, we would find that a person's embarrassment of the moment will be forgotten when they realize people react to them better once they HAVE bathed. The lesson here? Sometimes BRUTAL honesty IS the best way to go-just be careful!

HI CAP'N!

I have a question for you. Sometimes I note a hint of sarcasm in your responses to those that write in to your column. Is it possible that you are displaying symptoms of a pseudo-anti-social behavior, along with tendencies towards a disproportionate disillusion of grandeur, reacting with early signs of dementia, wherein your ability to stay on topic is compromised? Just a thought!

Sally Psychology

Dear Sally,

Well, aren't WE the little know-it-all! For your information,

you have me all wrong. I am actually a catatonic schizophrenic bent on modern-psychological extremism in reference to my lack of manic-depressive maternal influence. I may have an Oedipus complex, not to mention an extreme anxiety disorder, but I know for certain that I am not one of your fellow individuals exhibiting maladaptive behavior in their misuse of masochistic perspectivism. Get a clue!

CAP'N SLAPPY,

I have been a devoted reader to your column since its first appearance, and I am absolutely your biggest fan. You have helped so many students with their problems in such a beautiful way that I just had to write and tell you so.

However, I also have a problem. You see, I have taken Gen-Ed Math THREE times since I've been here, and have YET to pass! It's not like I skip at all, and I do all my homework. I fail because I'm just not good at math, and the tests freak me out. I've been tutored and coached, but nothing helps. Why do we even have to take a lousy math class, anyway? I mean, look at all the math majors, not a winner in the bunch! Isn't there anything I can do to avoid this travesty of justice?

Respectfully,
Mathed Out

Dear Mathed,

I was never good at

mathematics when I was your age, either, if that helps at all, but the case of the matter is that math is a vital subject that needs to be taught! We, as Americans, are dumb as bricks, and our intellectual types tell us we need to learn math better to get out of this rut. I feel your pain, though, as I feel that perhaps the Math bigwigs need to start giving us reasons to like it, and show us where we'll use it in life OTHER than as a math teacher, but that's just my view. Hey, if we didn't have math, we wouldn't have that darling Donald Duck math cartoon! Oh boy, that Donald sure makes me laugh.

Honestly, though, math is a serious subject. As boring as it may seem to you or I, there are probably a few in a million that LOVE this stuff, and need it to exist to excel in SOMETHING. Sure, the mathematicians may be smart enough to take over the world, and that's why we need to humor them. Good luck!

Well, that wraps up another successful round of the "Slappy Q & A's." Until next time, keep studying, keep living, and keep that Sodexo food down, no matter HOW hard it is! Zei Gezundt!

The Cap'n

Have a question that your dumb friends can't answer because they're, well, dumb? You, too, can send YOUR questions to be answered by Cap'n Slappy at: slappycaptain@hotmail.com!



Study Break Contest

How observant are you? This issue's contest is going to test your observation skills. The answers to each of these questions can be found somewhere in this issue of the *GlimmerGlass*. The first five people to answer all (or at least most) of the questions correctly will receive fabulous prizes, including a free combo meal from the Red Room. Good luck!

1. Where are brand new sack lunches (as part of your meal plan) available?
2. How many bands are playing at The Cornerstone Church in February?
3. How many years has Dr. Bowling been the president of Olivet?
4. What does FFH stand for?
5. Where is Benston's Bookshoppe located?
6. What is "The Cage?"
7. Who is the electrical specialist for Joe's Automotive?
8. Which popular English professor is returning this semester from a sabbatical in Europe?
9. What are the dates of the Concert Band variety show "Full Spectrum?"
10. Who is Beth Olney's favorite singer?

Editor asks: Could you be the next victim?

By Erin Rumbley
Executive editor

The stories you are about to read are based on truth. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The stairwell echoes with the sound of falling bodies and low moans. Everyone, it seems, has either witnessed, imagined or even feared the curse of those stairs. Extending from the first floor of the building the Olivet community calls "Burke," these stairs turn and twist their way up before mercifully ending at the fourth floor landing. The stairs are steep and difficult to climb at best, and seem positively treacherous on days full of rain or snow, when they are slick as well. Besides the obvious difficulties these stairs present, at time it seems as if they have a mind of their own; a wicked, treacherous mind that seeks out unsuspecting prey and causes them to trip or stumble or otherwise humiliate themselves before their fellow students.

Every student at Olivet is aware, either consciously or unconsciously of the entity behind "The

Burke Stairs." Without a doubt, each one of the university's students has at least imagined themselves falling up or down the stairs in front of their peers. Many students have had repetitive nightmares featuring these wicked stairs and the plots they make against students.

One of those students was a sophomore named Mabel. Mabel had been a student at Olivet for three semesters before she had this experience, although she had the fortune (or misfortune) of having a class on the fourth floor of this building each and every semester. On this particular day, Mabel was heading up to the fourth floor when she met one of her dearest friends, Bernadette, coming down the stairs. They were quite excited to see each other and met with a hug. Unfortunately, when they both stopped, the entire stairway was blocked and students began to try going around them. Bernadette realized this and quickly moved ahead, just in time to knock one of the oncoming students down the stairs...another victim of "The Burke Stairs." Poor Bernadette felt terrible about this, so she left quickly and

Mabel continued up the stairs.

Now Mabel was running a little bit late, because while she doesn't like to get to class too early, it is normal for her to arrive at least four or five minutes before class begins. So she was almost running up the stair to class and somehow didn't pick her foot up far enough and (yes...you know what is coming) fell up the stairs. The poor girl was humiliated at having fallen in front of so many students and quickly picked herself up and limped the rest of the way up the stairs. Her worst nightmares had come true; she too had become a victim of those frightening stairs.

"The Burke Stairs" do not simply choose their quarry from the student body, but also members of the university's faculty. One professor, Eleanor Eggwhite, was rushing around on the steps before teaching one of her classes and met with a sad fate on those stairs. She was rounding the corner of the second floor landing and starting down the next flight when somehow her foot slipped and she fell. Boom, boom, boom, down the stairs she slid (you could almost hear them laughing as she fell). One, two, three,

four, five stairs down she fell, trying to catch herself all the way, and ending sprawled on the next landing in a very undignified way. Prof. Eggwhite picked herself up slowly and although she laughed a little at how silly she must have looked, in the back of her mind, she knew the truth. She had become just one more person on that long list of victims chosen by "The Stairs."

Something must be done about these stairs and their evil plans. If they continue to be ignored, it is almost certain they will cause the downfall of many more students and faculty members on our campus. This madness must be stopped and it must begin now. Stand up to "The Stairs" and whatever you do, watch your step!

If you have ever done anything remotely embarrassing or funny on campus (or off campus!) that you wouldn't mind having everyone read (with the names changed, of course!), send your story idea to GlimmerGlass, Box 6024. We'd love to read (and write!) about you.

Rage in the Cage

By Andy Maynard
Sports editor

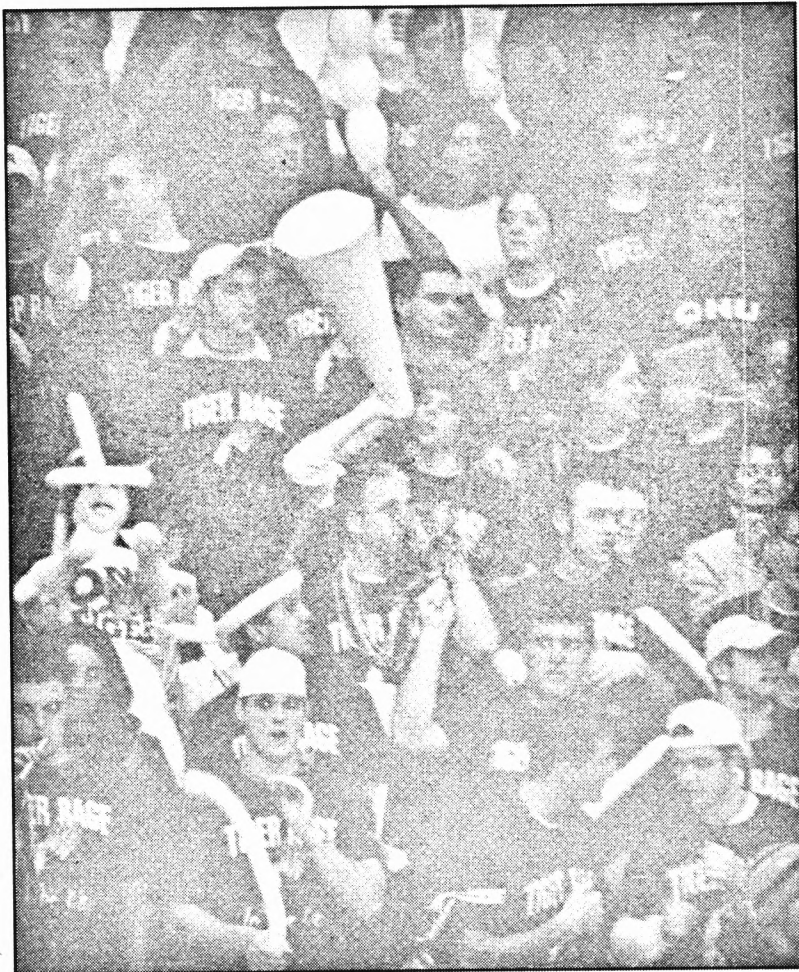
Early last semester, mysterious signs started popping up all over campus about something called "the Cage." The students at Olivet were all posing one question: What is the cage? Our answer soon came in the first men's basketball home game after homecoming and the rage is catching on rapidly.

The object of the cage is to get Olivet students involved in the games and show the team their support. The students don purple and gold clothing (and sometimes hairpieces) and gather in one section of McHie arena. The noise and excitement generated from that section of the arena is invigorating.

When the opposing team enters the court, the people in the Cage have their backs turned reading newspapers. Although some might think this action to be obnoxious, it makes sure that the opposite team knows that the fans at that game aren't cheering for them.

The cheerleaders also get a little help from the Cage. When doing a cheer that requires a response from the crowd, the return is an overwhelming shout. The response is so loud, that the radio broadcasts of the game are filled with the enthusiastic chants from the Cage.

"I love the crowd and the excitement; it's like being back in high school," one participant of the cage said when asked about how she felt about it. "When I first came to Olivet, I missed the excitement that came with



Olivet students show their support for the Tigers by sitting in The Cage. (Aurora photo by Elizabeth Angel)

our school's home games. I'm glad that it has returned with the Cage."

A similar situation was present in the very early days of Tiger basketball. "When Olivet got a men's club basketball team, their home games were crazy," Dr. Harlow Hopkins, an Olivet alumni and former head of the music department stated. "It was not a place that opposing teams like to play in."

Now that the arena where the

Tiger's play basketball has grown, there has been a need for more crowd noise. The Social Committee and ASC saw that need and took action designing t-shirts and getting businesses in the area to sponsor the contests. Whenever the Tigers play at home, one section is reserved for a sea of screaming purple Tiger fanatics.

Women's Basketball in full swing

By Andy Maynard
Sports editor

The Tiger's Women's basketball team has gotten off to a good start. Their current record stands at 11-12 and the young team is getting used to the ropes of college basketball.

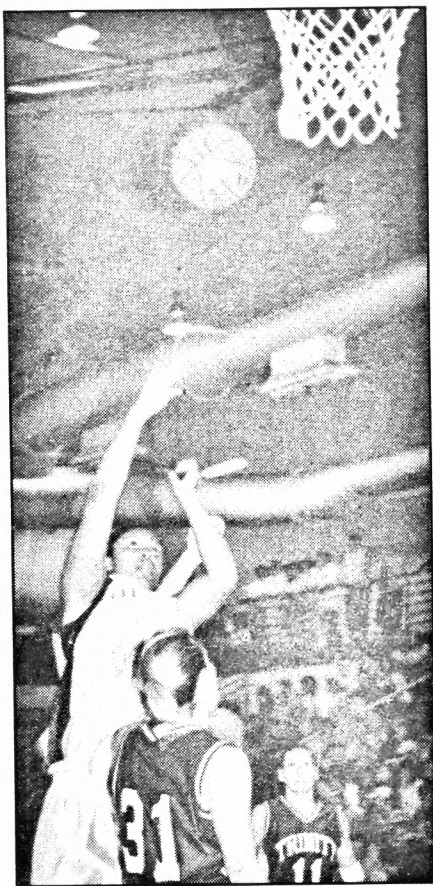
After opening their season last homecoming with an impressive 81-63 win against Trinity International, the team had an entire month of away games at tournaments.

They started December by winning in their final round of the Holiday Inn tournament. Since that point, the Tigers have a 4-1 home record. Their only division match of the season has been an easy win over Purdue University at Calumet.

The Tigers can pull themselves up to the .500 mark with a win Tuesday night against the Illinois Institute of Technology. Winning will be key for the next few weeks of Tiger women's basketball. Of the next seven games, five will be against teams in the Chicago Collegiate Athletics Conference, and four of those games

are on the road.

The exemplary home record is another example of how support from the home team can affect a team. Keep our teams winning and show your school spirit.



Lanita Thomas jumps to toss the ball in for a score. (Aurora photo by Johnathan Tran)

The Skinny...

Basketball(M) (14-5)

at Carthage	L 56-69
at Cornerstone	L 88-93
vs. Quincy	W 75-72
vs. IL Wesleyan	W 88-81
at Asbury College	W 96-64
at Hawaii Pacific	L 68-80
at Barat	L 97-102
at Purdue-Calumet	W 94-71
vs. Central State	W 96-85
vs. St. Francis	W 72-56
vs. St. Xavier	

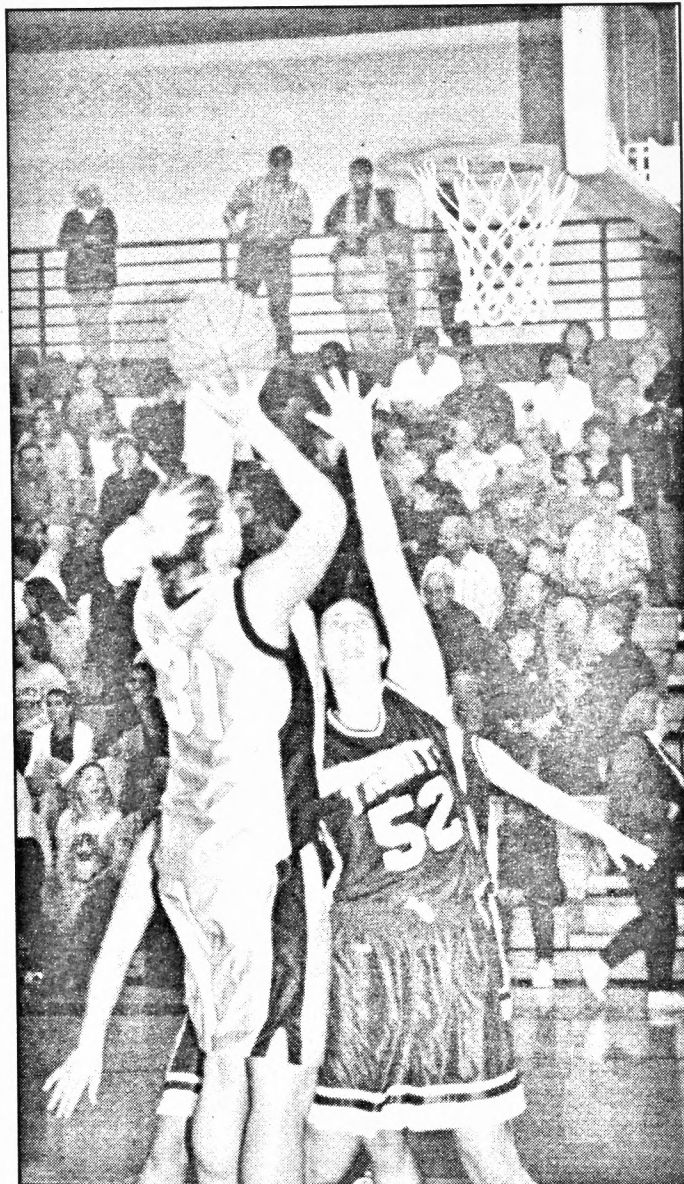
Basketball(W) (11-12)

at Wheaton College	L 60-67
vs. McKendree	W 88-79
vs. Robert Morris	W 70-62
at Marian College	L 38-65
at Lewis University	L 57-75
vs. UI-Springfield	W 72-57
vs. Purdue-Calumet	W 84-49
at IU-South Bend	L 66-67
vs. St. Xavier	L 89-96
vs. IIT	

Scores reported as they appear on Olivet's Athletic's Web site at www.olivet.edu/athletics.

Along with encouraging school spirit, the Cage also serves as a student activity by itself. There are games at halftime where people in the Cage have a chance to win prizes and embarrass themselves in front of their fellow students.

The Cage is looking to become a long standing tradition at Olivet so be part of the first generation of Cage dwellers.



Melissa Odel shoots just above the fingers of a defender. (Aurora photo by Johnathan Tran)

Morrical than you need to know: St. Louis, IL?

By Christopher Morrical
Sports Columnist

"I'm only going to root for the Bears for one more week. Then I'm going to watch the Rams destroy them," said one of my college professor in Southern Illinois. "I'm from St. Louis and nothing is better than watching St. Louis run over Chicago teams. The Rams are gonna do to the Bears what the Cardinals did to the Cubs."

"I'm a White Sox fan," yelled one of his male students. The professor continued making these remarks while students from Southern Illinois cheered and students from Chicago booed and argued. The class was nearly split down the middle. There happened to be several Chicago area students that attend this school.

Everyone knows that there is a huge rivalry between the Chicago and St. Louis teams: the Cubs and Cardinals hate each other, the Bears and Rams hate each other, and not to mention the hatred between the Blackhawks and the Blues. The problem lies within the fact that people from Champaign to Cairo all think that they are living in Missouri. If you are one of these people, please pull out your wallets and take out your driver's license. What state is it issued for? Mine says Illinois. The state is writ-

ten in big blue letters in the upper left-hand corner of the card. You can't miss it.

Since we have established that I am a resident of Illinois, and if you are too and if you're reading this, we should root for Illinois teams. Someone who is born in Champaign will be an Illini fan and someone born in Carbondale will be a Saluki fan. This is evidence that we have natural allegiances to a region. If I were born, say in Effingham, Illinois, shouldn't I root for the Bears? Not according to the citizens of Effingham. They have no allegiance to Chicago at all. Doesn't this seem strange to anyone else? And if Kankakee County is south of Chicago, then why are there so many Cubs fans here? In Chicago, people born on the south side always root for the White Sox. People on the north side always root for the Cubbies. Can you get more "south-side" than Kankakee?

The trouble with the people of Southern Illinois is that they are afraid that they too will have to spend their entire lifetimes cheering on perennial losers. I think the fact that Chicagoans have never experienced a World Series is the reason why this city is so great. We had to find other enjoyable things to do. After 1959, the last time a Chicago team went to a Fall Classic (White Sox lost to the

Dodgers), we became sick of losing. So what were we to do? Mayor Daley had an idea. Build! He built skyscrapers and expressways and created nightlife like no other city has ever seen. Chicago is arguably the most beautiful city in the world. If you were to ask someone what there is to do in St. Louis, he wouldn't say anything. He can't. Once you've seen the arch, you've seen the whole city.

Let me just say that if you are a person that is living closer to St. Louis than Chicago there is nothing wrong with being a fan of the Rams or Cardinals. They are certainly easier to follow and easier to go see live. The trouble lies in the fact that you would

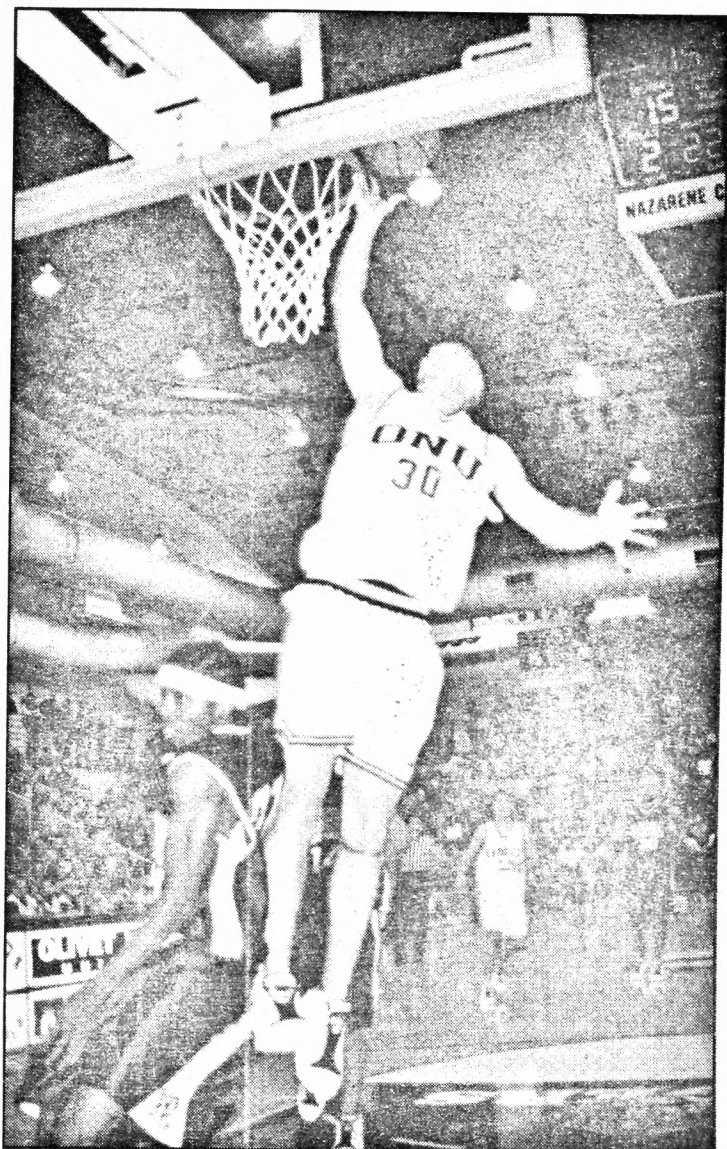
cheer for another state to defeat your own. Good thing you weren't living in the north during the civil war.

The only allowable excuse for rooting for St. Louis teams is that of having been born in Missouri and having moved to Illinois. This is my situation and the same of the aforementioned professor. Not only do I say this because I believe it to be true, but because he is my professor and I want to pass his class.

Christopher Morrical is a student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and is a regular contributor to the Glimmerglass.

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Jeremiah Hamlet tosses in a layup in a recent home game. (Aurora photo by Jonathan Tran)

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The New Year and resolutions: the sissy way to suck it up

By Courtney Brown
Opinions Editor

As I write this to you all, there are exactly three hundred forty-three and a third days until the next new year. (Pop quiz: when did I write this?) Given that extremely interesting piece of information, I'd like to take a little closer look at this whole "New Year" thing.

Did you know that the celebration of the new year is the oldest holiday? The ancient Babylonians first observed the holiday about 4000 years ago. (You can wow your friends with that one, I'm sure.) And do you know what those crazy Babylonians chose as their new year? They picked the beginning as the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. Fascinating!

At least they had a reason, though, right?

And those Babylonians, they didn't mess around when it came to partying the new year in. They had a celebration that lasted for a full eleven days. I think it's safe to say that our own paltry modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

It was those wacky Roman senators who, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the official start of the new year after their own calendar had gotten all out of whack. It seems their various emperors kept switching things around in the calendar whenever they felt the urge, so it didn't take long for things to get messy.

In reality, January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years. (Now everyone go call your mothers and assure them that sending you to college wasn't a waste. You have, in fact, learned something.)

Many traditions have since become associated with bringing in the new year.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC, but was also used by the Egyptians and eventually by the Church as a symbol of the birth of the baby Jesus.

It was also thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did on the first day of the year. And so it has become common to celebrate the first few minutes of a new year with family and friends.

It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man. (In my case, I would also like him to be young, handsome, available and rich. But I'm not picky. He could be blonde, too, and I'd be

alright with that.)

Various foods are also thought to bring luck in many cultures. Some believe that anything in the shape of a ring is lucky, because it symbolizes coming full circle or completing a year's cycle. That's why the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. I think in my quest to become ever more culturally aware and accepting, it's only right that I should embrace this particular tradition as soon as possible.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas, rice, ham or cabbage. I'm not sure on the reasoning behind the peas and rice, but hogs evidently represent prosperity, as does cabbage because it looks like money. I don't know - that may be a stretch.

But what about the most well-known tradition associated with the new year, at least in this culture, the New Year's resolution? That tradition we can also credit to the early Babylonians. Ever a practical people, their most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

They say that 70% of us make New Year's resolutions. I personally try never to make any New Year's resolutions, though this year I'm afraid I did.

So, what is your New Year's resolution? I've asked around about this thing, but so far, I must have just been talking with that other thirty percent because I haven't found a single person who has made a resolution. Hypothetically, though, I'm sure many of you would say that you have resolved to lose weight or do something about your grades or some relationship or to change some other aspect of yourself, be it either physical or more personality related.

Or something like that.

So what was my New Year's resolution this year? I resolved not to get so angry at the book store this year. And I'll tell you, I did fine for about a week - that first week of the new year when I was still at home.

But then I came back to school and had to actually buy my books.

I have never paid that much for a semester's worth of books in my entire life and I'm taking the fewest hours this semester that I've ever taken. Something seemed fundamentally wrong about that. But that's another editorial in itself. (And feel free to send in your comments about that nasty institution, The College Campus Bookstore, and I'll see what I can do about printing them.)

Anyway, you would have broken that resolution, too.

(To be completely honest, though, I kind of knew that resolution wouldn't last very long, so I didn't have many qualms about making it. It's easier to make a resolution if you know you don't really have any intention of keeping it. Honesty with oneself is key here.)

Then I turn to those philosophers for all times, Calvin & Hobbes, the ones I always turn to for guidance on all of the really tough issues, to see what they have to say on the subject. (For those of you who are unfamiliar with this great duo, come see me. I'd be glad to acquaint you.)

When asked by Hobbes if he's made any resolutions for the new year, Calvin characteristically replies, "Heck no. I'm fine just the way I am! Why should I change? In fact, I think it's high time the world started changing to suit me! I don't see why I should do all the changing around

here! If the new year requires resolutions, I say it's up to everyone else, not me! I don't need to improve! Everyone else does!"

This is a mentality I find that I can subscribe to. Why should the new year require resolutions and why should I be the one to make them?

Hobbes had resolved to be less offended my human nature as it turns out. I'm afraid his resolution went the way of mine not to get angry at the book store this year soon after Calvin began speaking.

You know, I do understand the whole train of thought behind the New Year's resolution, but I guess I figure that if you haven't got enough gumption and willpower to do something about your smoking habit or that extra fifteen pounds in May or September, it's not going to be any easier in January.

Our culture has been flooded with self-help tools of all kinds and programs and support groups until the mention of them has become a cliché joke at times. There is something to be said for gritting one's teeth and bearing it, for saying you're going to do something and then doing it, for sucking it up and quitting being a slacker or a baby.

Don't get me wrong, I don't have a problem with groups or programs that assist people in reaching their goals. But all this New Year's sissy business I do have a problem with. It's just dumb. I think this tradition should go by the wayside. Chalk it up as a tradition tried and found lacking, and while we're at it, let's get rid of the black eyed peas thing too, and move on.

That said, for those seventy percent of you that I haven't found, yet, good luck with your resolutions.

Write to me. It has to have been someone's New Year's resolution to write down an opinion and send it to me. Seventy percent, remember? Or maybe you just resolved to have an opinion. Write it down anyway - tell me what you're thinking. Right. Anyway, thanks a lot.

Here's the box number:

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